



## **Electronic Data Reporting Template**

### **Closing the Gap Results Report (Small Group)**

**School:** Midvale Middle

**Target Group:** Students enrolled in study skills

**Target Group selection is based upon:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade students that are struggling academically

### **ABSTRACT**

The study skills class was designed to offer academic help for students. Students must be referred by teachers and staff in order to take the class. Students enrolled in the class consisted of twenty 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. To track information we compared the quarter prior to having study skills and the first quarter following enrollment. The average increase in GPA was 0.87 after student enrollment in study skills.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### **Introduction**

- Assist students struggling academically with the skills and help needed to improve grades
- With grade improvement, students will have greater opportunities and meet requirements needed for graduation
- Provide a small class environment that allows students to get one on one help from teacher

#### **Participants**

- 20 students
- Students struggling academically that want help and have been referred by faculty or staff

#### **Method**

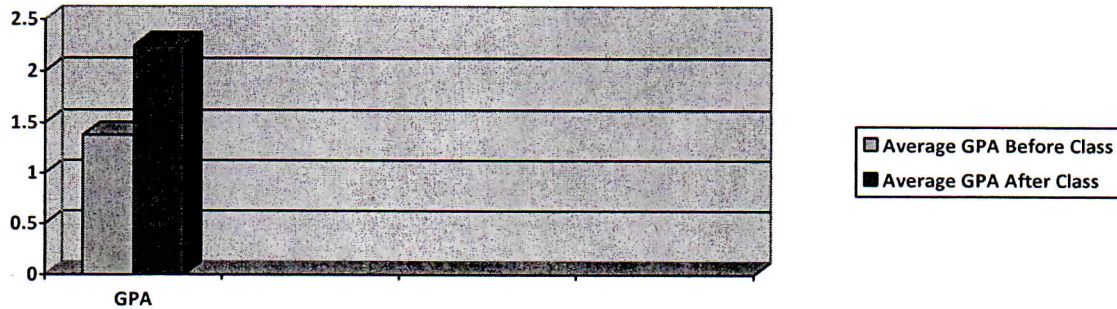
- Teach students how to:
  - Effectively use planners
  - Use and understand Power School
  - Plan
  - Goal setting
  - Understand graduation requirements
- Allow time for students to work on homework from core classes and receive tutoring
- August 2008 through June 2009
- Counselors Karen Ward and Bob Spears
- Evaluation method: The GPA of the quarter just before taking Study Skills as compared to the first quarter enrolled in Study Skills

### **RESULTS**

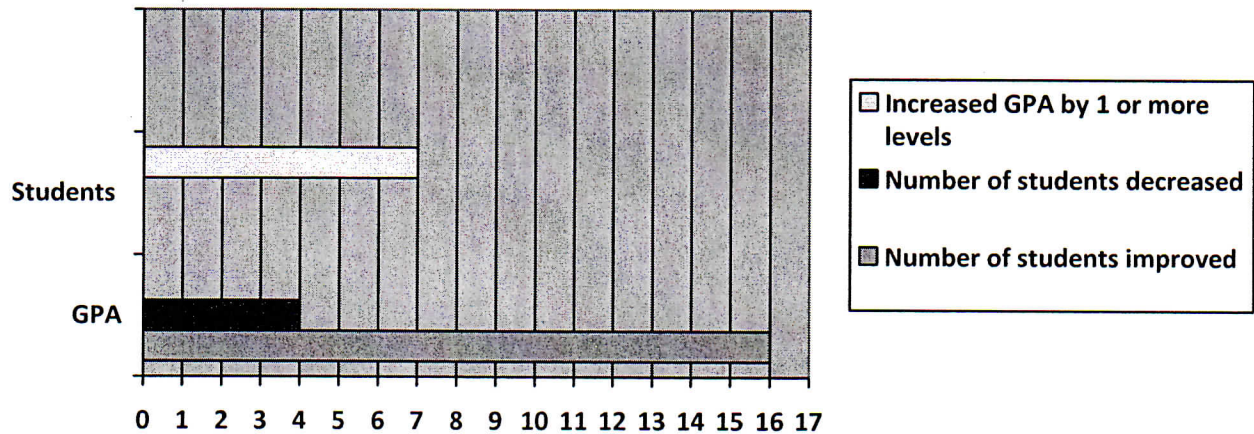
By looking at the GPA of the quarter just before taking the class as compared to the first quarter enrolled in Study Skills we were able to determine the following. The average GPA of the 20 students prior to taking the class was 1.38. The post evaluation average GPA after the first quarter of taking study skills was 2.25 (see graph 1). The overall average GPA rose 0.87 points after participating in Study Skills. Sixteen students improved their grades while four student's

grades actually dropped (see graph 2). We also found that two students improved their GPA by 2 grade levels and five improved by 1 level. Out of those that had a decrease after taking Study Skill, three of them had dropped grades by 0.4 GPA and one by 0.1 GPA.

**Graph 1**



**Graph 2**



## DISCUSSION

There are many factors that contribute to failing grades that could not be fully assessed in this study. We do believe that the class was helpful and results do show an increase. This year the classes were much smaller with no more than 7 students per class. Results did show an improvement from last year from an increase of 0.32 to a 0.87 rise in GPA. This could be due to the smaller class size and the teaching methods of the new teacher. It was our hope that all participating students would have increased their GPA after enrolling in Study Skills. Unfortunately 4 of them did not increase but actually decreased. It is interesting to note that out of the four students that had a decrease in GPA 3 of them were all in the same class together. We also found in a different period that every student in the class increased their GPA and no student had a decrease. Perhaps it would be beneficial to have the class be a team where they are all there to help each other out. We could make it a competition by offering a prize to the



study skills class with the greatest increase in GPA. Students feed off of each other and by helping others they will also help themselves. If we could make learning fun and a greater desire to help each other out it is our belief that all students would improve from taking the class. We strongly believe the class is a benefit to students and the increase in overall GPA does show this. For future direction we would like to see a greater increase including all students and feel that follow up and closer monitoring of the students will do this. The class structure is designed to help kids with homework and create better planning. Skills taught in the class are essential to doing well at school and may be the reason why some improved so drastically. Overall Study Skills is a benefit and an effective tool to help students academically. By improving our interaction and follow –up with students we feel the class can help all students not just the majority. Perhaps it would be beneficial to have the class be a team where they are all there to help each other out. We could make it a competition by offering a prize to the study skills class with the greatest GPA increase.